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DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP

**DATE:** November 18, 2004

**CLIENT NO.:** K0600.0208/P208

**MESSAGE TO:** Examiner V.M. Kibler

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**MESSAGE:**

Please review and call to discuss the attached proposed amendment to claim 1 per our discussion during the Examiner Interview.

U.S. Application No. 09/445,304 Attorney Docket: K0600.0208/P208

**DRAFT AMENDMENT**

**FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY**

1. (currently amended) An image processing apparatus comprising:

gradient calculation means for calculating at least the direction of the level gradient of each of a plurality of processing units in a given image data including a plurality of pixels, the pixels respectively having level data;

line segment formation means for producing line segment image data representing a line segment for each of the plurality of processing units, the line segment formation means being arranged and configured to form ~~each~~ line ~~segment~~ segments each having a respective initial point, terminal point, and a ~~given~~ length L representing a difference between a distance d from each processing unit to the initial point of the line segment and a distance D from each processing unit to the terminal point of the line segment, respectively, wherein the distances d and D are preselectable to be any value within the respective ranges $0 \leq d \leq \infty$, $0 \leq D \leq \infty$, and a direction corresponding respectively to the direction of each level gradient which is calculated by said gradient calculation means; and

line segment image storage means for storing the line segment image data produced by said line segment formation means.